

John Floyd to Andrew Jackson, December 18, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN FLOYD TO JACKSON.1

1 Floyd and his Georgians fought a battle with the hostile Creeks at Autossee, Nov. 29, driving the Indians from the field with a loss of two hundred men, but he himself was wounded and withdrew from the Tallapoosa. Jackson's movement was to be in co-operation with Floyd's; but the retrograde movement of the Georgians left him alone in the Indian country and he felt the greater necessity for maintaining his advanced position.

Of the Indian towns mentioned here, Kieligee (Kailaidshi) was on the Tallapoosa River about twelve miles above Tukabatchi. Autossee (Atasi) was on the same river six miles below Tukabatchi. Huhliwahli was eight miles south of Tukabatchi on the same river. Oakfuskee, on the same river, was about twenty-five miles above Kieligee. Kawita was on the Chattahoochee, near the existing town Columbus, Ga., but west of the river, in the northeastern part of Russell Co., Ala.

Fort Mitchell (West of Chatahouchee), December 18, 1813.

Sir: Seven Days ago I sent a Couple of Indian Spies to Kieligee, in Order to ascertain the Situation of the Enemy, who have Just Returnd with your letter of the 8th Inst addressed to Genl. Pinckney, whose Head Quarters is at Present at Milledgeville. I took the liberty to open the letter with a view to give you such information Respecting the army as might be required without delay; and Shall forward your Communication by Express. I arrived here with the army under my Command on the 24th ult, when A Combination of Circumstances made it Necessary to make a Sudden Attack on the Head Quarters of the Enemy, having

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been informed that McQueen was with Considerable force at Autossee, to which place he has Just returned with his warriors from before Coweta. For the Result, and further particulars, I beg leave to Refer you to the enclosed News paper which I forward for your information. The want of Regular Supplies, and the means of transportation has protracted the operations of this army beyond all reasonable Calculations. On my Return from Autossee I Received orders from Genl. Pinckney for the first time; I have Caused a Strong Stockade fort defended by Block houses to be Erected on the West Side of the Rivers Flint, and Chatahouchee, and Shall in about Ten days Send out a Strong detachment to Establish Another Work within Striking distance of the Enemy. By the Return of the Spies, I learn that McQueen, and Francis,² are with their adherents at Hoithlawalie, and Between that Place and Autossee on the west Side the Talapoosa, that their Strength is not equal to 1000 Effective men, that the Indian families are coming to this place from the Alabama for Security. It appears from the Same Source that the Prophets have recently Received a letter from the Government at Pensacola informing them that they Can be Supplied with Ammunition (an Article with which they are badly Supplied at present) and that if their Enemy prove too Strong for them, that they must Retreat to that place for Safty.

² Two of the prophets, and chiefly responsible for the existence of the war spirit in the Creeks. They fled to Florida after the battle of Horseshoe Bend, in 1814, and probably helped to promote the hostility that led to the Seminole War in 1818. Francis. or Hillis Hago, was captured at St. Marks in 1818 and hanged by orders of General Jackson. McQueen fought a battle a few days later, was defeated, and escaped into the forest.

General Adams at the head of Six hundred Mounted Militia Crossed the Okmulgee on Sunday last on a March against the Okfuskees. I sent Captain Hammitons Troop of light Dragoons, from this to form a Junction with him. I am in hourly Expectation of hearing from them. I have no doubt but the Enemy will be Completely Routed as I understand that there is not more than three hundred embodied.

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The Advantage Contemplated by an attack on the Enemy have been Realized, it has decided the Question with the wavering Towns, and Villages, as you will perceive by the Enclosed list, the Representatives of which waited me on my Return from Autossee, and tended their friendship, and Services. It will afford me much pleasure to be Kept informed of your movements, and will make every Exertion in my power, in obedience to General Pinckneys Orders to Co-operate in any measure Calculated for the destruction of the Enemy. Should the wound which I have Received, render me long unfit for Active Service, General Williams of South Carolina, will be Called to the Command.

I have the honor to be Respectfully Your Mt. Obt. Sert